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POLAND:

SKETCH OF HER HISTORY.

TREATMENT OF THE JEWS, AND LAWS CONCERNING THEM—POLISH
SERFS AND ~~THEIR~~ FREEDOM BY THE CZAR ALEXANDER II.

—CAUSE OF THE PRESENT POLISH INSURRECTION—

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF THE SOVEREIGNS

OF POLAND, AND THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS

IN THE REIGN OF EACH.

BY

M. B. CZECHOWSKI.

“What is truth?”—*Pilate.*

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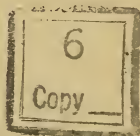
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To my Dearly Beloved Brother in Christ,

PHINEAS STOWE,

Minister of the Gospel, Pastor First B. Mariner's Church, Boston,

THE GENUINE FRIEND OF POLAND,

AND GOOD SAMARITAN OF ALL THE SUFFERING AND OPPRESSED,

THIS LITTLE WORK,

As a mark of True Friendship,

IS CHEERFULLY DEDICATED,

BY THE AUTHOR.



POLAND:

SKETCH OF HER HISTORY.

AT this important era in the history of Poland, when, after nearly a century of suffering and humiliation, she has risen in her might, determined to cast off the hated yoke of her oppressors or perish in the conflict, I consider it my duty as one of her unfortunate exiles, to give the American public a sketch of her past history, some of the causes of her decline and loss of independence; and, then, touch upon an important question of the present time—the causes of the enfranchisement of the serfs by the Czar Alexander and the present Polish insurrection.

The record of the Polish nation commences about the year A. D. 550, but the country was probably settled by Slavonian people several centuries previously. The Slavonian race, comprising about one hundred millions of people, speak four different dialects, viz., the Russian, Bohemian, Polish, and Slavonian proper. The first is the language of the

vast region comprising the Russian Empire; the Bohemian, of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia; the Polish, of Poland and Lithuania; while that called Slavonian proper, having undergone less alteration than the other Slavonian dialects, is the language of Albania, Servia, Bulgaria, Wallachia, Moldavia, Bosnia, Dalmatia, Illyria, Croatia, Slavonia, Carniola, Styria, &c.

History throws but little light upon the settlement of Poland, or its condition for several centuries afterward. Christianity had not yet shed its benign light upon its people—they were still enveloped in the darkness of paganism. The name of Poland was derived from *pole* (plain), the country being a rich virgin plain; and here its people lived for several centuries, on their undisputed soil, in wild and proud independence. March 5th, A. D. 965, Mieczyslas, Duke of Poland, married Dombrowka, daughter of Boleslas I. of Bohemia, a Catholic prince, who made it an essential condition of the marriage of his daughter with Mieczyslas that he should embrace the Catholic religion. The Polish prince accepted the condition, and, when a messenger brought him word that Dombrowka was on her way to Gniezna (the first Polish city), the nation were notified of his approaching baptism and marriage, and invited to be present. He was baptized

by Bohowid, a Bohemian priest, and his court also; and Dobieslaus Persztein, a Bohemian lord, had the honor to be his godfather (!!). Thus Poland was bound to Rome, while the most of the Slavonian race followed the authority of the Greek Patriarchs of Constantinople. It was also bound to Germany, for the German Emperor was the secular arm of the Roman Pontiff. It is evident that Poland was not then a poor country, for history records that, in the year A. D. one thousand, Otto III., the German Emperor, visited Prince Boleslas at Gniezna, where he was entertained three days with great magnificence. The castle of this prince was of wood, but its interior was very costly, the walls being ornamented with pictures in gold. History also informs us that the servants of Boleslas put upon the tables more and more costly plate of silver and gold, and that, after each repast, all was given to the Emperor and his attendants, with all of value the room contained, besides costly gifts of clothing and money.

Otto was astonished at the sight of such splendor, and especially with the open-hearted generosity of the Polish prince. Afterward he took his own crown off his head, and put it on the head of Boleslas, thus raising him to the dignity of king. He made with him a treaty of peace and amity, ad-

mitted him to his own council, and gave him the same power as he had himself in the affairs of the church, which was approved and confirmed by the Roman Pontiff. Nine bishoprics were then established, at the head of which were placed Italian, French and Bohemian bishops. But Catholicism, so favorable to the strengthening of monarchical power, was propagated slowly. The Polish people did not receive it with favor, and were converted to it, in general, not by conviction, but by arms and bad treatment, and were not reconciled to it for two centuries. It riveted their chains, and favored the absolute power of the king, and the irruption and usurpation of strangers. The introduction into Poland of different kinds of monks, from other countries, in the time of the crusades, and the crusades themselves, changed this once happy country into the abode of fanaticism, bigotry, and anarchy. King Wladislas Lokietek, a wise and good prince, who reigned from A. D. 1296 to 1333, did much to destroy the power of the crusaders and restore Poland to its former prosperity. His son, Kasimir the Great, inherited the virtues of his father. He was a legislator, and developed the ameliorations which his father commenced. His aim was the happiness of his people, on which account he was called the King of the Peasants, a title which effaced and sur-

passed that of the great. Kasimir encouraged the arts : there are still to be seen traces of monuments which appertain to the epoch of his reign. He founded the university of Cracow in A. D. 1347 ; this was an immense benefit for civilization. Poland, thirsting for light and science, found in the university the knowledge of these rights ; and, as religious toleration permitted all sects to receive instruction there, it spread the light of science, which aided immensely the progress of the nation. The reign of Sigismund I. was a glorious and prosperous epoch for Poland. Under Sigismund industry and knowledge reached their apogee ; to this grand age was due the genius of Copernicus, whose new light on the solar system vivified the minds of Gallileo and Kepler. A celebrated writer has said : “ Formerly each nation regarded itself as the center of the world, around which gravitated the celestial bodies.

“ Copernicus discovered the true system of the physical world, and it seems that the Polish nation alone presented the true movement of the moral world ; she acknowledged that each nation ought to make part of a whole, and circulate as planets around their center ; that each nation contributes to the ensemble and the necessary equilibrium, and that it is only blind egotism that refuses to acknowl-

edge this truth. I repeat, the Polish nation is a philosophy of inspiration, a Copernicus in the moral world. She is not comprehended, she is persecuted; it matters not, she progresses always; she makes disciples and proselytes, and her crown of thorns is a crown of glory." Sigismund Augustus II., who succeeded his father, was faithful to the noble traditions which he left. The other nations envied the Polish splendor. With Augustus died the race of Jagellon, A. D. 1572, and we touch the epoch of the decadence of Poland.

TREATMENT OF THE JEWS, AND LAWS CONCERNING THEM.

[Translated from J. N. Janowski.]

When the Jews entered Poland is unknown.* According to Naruszewicz, the Jews multiplied in Poland from immemorial time. "The Poles were rich in gold and silver, and the land abundant in fruits," said Mr. Grabowski:† "and the commerce large, and there were many Jews;" and this was

* History of Gallus, vol. vi. p. 13, speaking of the beautiful Judith, the first wife of Wladislas Herman, says: "*Multos Christianos de servitute Judeorum, suis facultatibus redimebat.*" Also, Anonymous, ed. Sommersberg, vol. i. p. 24.

† In his account of the Jews in 1611, vol. iv. p. 3.

true, for all historians acknowledge that nearly all the commerce was in the hands of Israelites. The dreadful persecutions of the Jews in Bohemia, in 1096, brought many of them from that country to Poland. Not long ago there was published an Arabian geography by Eb. Haukul, who lived in the beginning of the tenth century, which testifies that near the Caspian Sea and the river Alet, or Volga, was a very flourishing kingdom, noted for its high cultivation, in which the king was a Jew. He had 9 kadich and 1200 soldiers. The capital city was named Bat; and the inhabitants were of all religions. Another Arabian biographer, Massondi, of the same period, says: "In another capital city, Khozarow, there were great numbers of Jews, Christians, and pagans." The king and the principal ministers and officers of government were all Jews; but not by birth. They embraced the Jewish faith under Kalif Harun Al-Rachid, in the second century of the Hegira, or the eighth of our era. Massondi called the capital Amol. How far we can trust in this testimony, and how large were the kingdoms, it is impossible to know.* But we must say that

† We read many fabulous stories in the journal of Peritsol; nevertheless, we read in vol. iv. of *Novi Commentarii Societatis Göthingensis*, discussion entitled, "Guith," Francisci Valesii, *Historia rerum in Homeritide saeculo VII. cum a rege Judeo contra*

the testimony of Nestor is very clear, that the Jews from the capital of Khozarow tried to convert to their religion Wladimir the Great, to whom he answered: "Now that you have no Jerusalem, God is not gracious to you." By which we judge that the Jews were at that time an important people, and, therefore, could remove from place to place, and settle according to their pleasure. In the eleventh century there were many Jewish authors in Russia. In the thirteenth century, Jews were proprietors of villages. Kasimir the Great protected them. He gave them many privileges, and permitted them to build two cities, one near Cracow, another near Lublin, both of which bear his name. Commerce flourished under the shadow of freedom; and the Jews blessed God for their dear adopted country, and common justice.

We will here show the privileges given them by Boleslas, and confirmed by Kasimir, and also by Withold of Lithuania:

ART. 1. "When there is a process against a Jew; when it is necessary to convict a Jew of crime, there are necessary three witnesses—two catholics and one Jew—acquainted with the Jewish law." This condition at first seems unjust in a civilized age; but in

Christianos, tam ab Habessinīs ad hos ulciscendos gestarum. First part, p. 1, and second part, p. 40. John N. Janowski on the Polish Literature. Poitier, 1837.

the time when the Jesuitical officers of Government were oppressors of the Jews, when bigotry and fanaticism represented them as the murderers of Christian children* and enemies of the human race, the people considered every crime committed against them lawful. Three times a year, with great ceremony, a Jew was publicly slapped in the face before the parish church, as a punishment of the dishonor Jesus suffered from their ancestors in Jerusalem. In Bitterik, in 1159, during fifteen days in the month of April, previous to the Sunday called the Sunday "de quasimodo," the people were accustomed to stone every Jew to be found in the streets. The Crusaders increased much the hatred against the Jews; therefore, nobody can be astonished that the Jews had no confidence in the catholics who witnessed against them.

ART. 2, 3. Jews have the right to be pawnbrokers, &c.

ART. 4. When there are quarrels between Jews, the fines shall go into the king's treasury.

ART. 5. A Christian injuring a Jewish cemetery shall be punished by the confiscation of his property.

ART. 6. Any person throwing a stone into a Jewish synagogue, must pay into the government treasury two pounds of pepper, or its worth in money.

ART. 7. A Jew cannot be forced to swear by the ten commandments, except for the value of fifty marks of silver. In small matters, he shall swear before the door of the synagogue.

ART. 9. A Jew accused of killing a Christian child shall have three Catholics and three Jews for witnesses. If the accusation is found to be false,

* It is a monkish story that the Jews use in Passover time the blood of Christian children in their cakes.

the accuser shall submit to the same punishment that the Jew would receive if found guilty.

According to Zuchowski, during 300 years, the Jews murdered eighty-six Christian children. A decree of the Polish tribunal, 1636, records that one such crime was discovered and punished. In the Archives of the crown we find another, recorded in 1793, similar to the first. But we confess (says John N. Janowski), with sadness of heart, that in both of these cases the confession of the crime was drawn out by torture. The horrible events connected with these unjust judgments are represented in a large painting in the village of Wojslawice, three miles from Krasnystaw. To this day many Catholics in Europe and Asia believe this absurd charge against the Jews.

ART. 10. It is not permitted to steal Jewish children, and whoever is guilty of this crime shall be punished as a thief.

The stealing of Jewish children, for the sake of baptizing them, was considered by many Catholics a very pious act. Julius Cesar reproached the Catholics who stole Jewish children; and in nearly every nation where the Jews were settled, we find the same lamentation of the Jewish parents on account of the violence done to the parental relationship.

ART. 11. Jews are free to buy any merchandise, and to touch bread and other provisions.

Long before, it was forbidden them to touch any provisions Christians might buy. In the tenth century, the Archbishop of Lyons, Agobard, insisted that such a law was necessary.

ART. 12. The jurisdiction over the Jews belongs to the king or his delegates.

ART. 13. The justice of peace shall judge a Jew, unless it shall be against the wish of the Jew himself. Judgment shall be given at the designated place—Jew being judged by Jew.

ART. 17. The Jews, on their Sabbath or holy days, cannot be forced to deliver a gage.

ART. 18. If the Jews call for help in the night against thieves, and Christians refuse their help, they shall be punished.

Kasimir the Great died, and the execution of his laws for the amelioration of the condition of the Jews depended upon the caprice of his successors. Louis, who succeeded him, possessed not the virtues of his uncle; he decreed the expulsion of the Jews. In the time of Wladislas Jagellon, a certain priest, Budek, excited the people of Cracow against Israelites by accusing them of having killed a Christian child. Many Jews were sacrificed to the fanaticism of the Catholics. They were accused of stealing a holy wafer from the church, and piercing it with knives. This wafer is preserved till the present time

in the Cathedral of Posen, and is exhibited every year in the month of June in the procession of Corpus Christi. *O sancta simplicitas!* Several Jews were obliged to walk before this procession with butcher-knives in their hands. This practice was discontinued not long since, for the consideration of a large sum of money paid by the Jews. A similar circumstance occurred in Cracow, in the same place where is now the large and rich church of the regular canons. Wladislas Jagellon ordered the writing of a new statute to all the priests in the diocese of Gniezna, saying that "Poland is a new Christian country, therefore it is resolved that Catholics can have no feast with Jews, neither dance with them at weddings, nor buy meat from them. Resolved that Jews have a large circle of red cloth fastened upon the back of their coats; and if they neglect this, the bishop of the diocese has power to punish them. Christians can have no connection with them. They cannot go to the baths in company with them. They can have but one synagogue in any city. Above all, the special rule is, that in places inhabited by Jews, from which priests have profit, the bishop can determine how much the Jews shall pay the priests." This law was recorded and preserved in the synodal constitution till Sigismund III., 1630. The mass of the people who took arms

to destroy the Turks, in 1464, afterward turned them against the Jews in Cracow, and many of them were massacred. The imbecile magistrate who permitted this massacre was severely punished by Kasimir Jagellon. In the reign of John Albert, the Jews were transported from Cracow to the city of Kazimierz, where they have remained till the present time. In the year 1496, a law was passed that the Jews cannot have greater privileges than Christians, and that if they have advanced money to buy property they must lose it. At last an article was added to the laws concerning them, without explanation: "If the Jews enjoy any privilege contrary to the law of God, it must be taken from them." Alexander, brother of John Albert, tried to exterminate the Jews, if we can believe the testimony of his flatterer Zaborowski.* In 1505, when the statutes were compiled, the privileges of Boleslas and Kasimir the Great were approved, with the remark that "these privileges were of no value, but would rather serve against the Jews—that he could not approve such privileges." Przyluski† praised Alexander because he refused to receive a rich present of money from them. We, too, praise the repug-

* Jacobi Zaborowski, Canon of Sandomir ad Alexandrum Regem, 1502: apud Halter, Cracoviae.

† Statutes of 1553, published in Glossie.

nance to avarice. But we are astonished that a writer pretending to be a legislator did not consider that the law which Alexander did not sanction was still a law.* In the reign of Sigismund I. the Jews were horribly persecuted and despoiled in Bohemia, and found protection in Poland. There was great controversy in the Polish Diet on the subject of the treatment of the Jews. One party was for expelling them from the kingdom, another for taking all commerce from their hands, and another for granting them the same privileges that other citizens enjoyed.† The love of truth compels us to say that the Acts of Diets, by Chojenski, and the Life of Peter Kmita, by an anonymous author, give testimony that many persons intensified the persecution of the Jews, or abated it. A very ridiculous charge against the Jews was made in 1538, which was often repeated, that they bought oxen and other products in Wallachia and other parts of Poland, and transported them to other countries, thus impoverishing Poland. The Catholic clergy, first by their publications, and by their official resolutions of 1542, many times renewed, demanded that all Jewish synagogues should be destroyed, and only a limited

* John N. Janowski, *de Judeis*.

† Acts of Diets, 1532 and '34, vol. xvi., by Tomicki.

number of Jews should be allowed to remain in Poland, and that all laws which had before been passed against them should be executed. The unfortunate Jews defended themselves as best they could, more, however, with their money than by their writings. One anonymous volume was published by them.* The author took the ground that religions change according to time and civilization, as is proved by the reform of Luther; and that it is not the will of Providence that men of different beliefs should persecute each other; that the Jews by their commerce added much to the wealth of the country, instead of impoverishing it; and that it would be much wiser to tolerate them with their honest confession of faith in one God, Jehovah, than to demand of them hypocrisy. This volume also states that in Poland there were but few Polish mechanics, and but 500 merchants, while the Jews had 3,200 large merchants and 9,600 mechanics. Now, they remark: "Let the Catholic merchants use more economy, and not spend their money foolishly in dancing and dissipation, &c., and sell their merchandise more cheaply than the Jews, and all will buy of them, and they can become rich."

* *Ad quaerelam mercatorum Cracoviensium responsum Judeorum de mercantura.* MDXXXIX.

At last, say they, “we take the liberty to say we will not submit to an ecclesiastical jurisdiction or decree of priests; we owe only obedience and submission to our king, from whom we have assurance of protection.” We will now cast a glance at the laws relating to the Jews under the reign of Sigismund. To keep custom houses, or hold other public offices, and to trade in villages, is forbidden to Jews. The Jews that live in cities and villages that are the property of the king can expect no protection from him.* They shall wear yellow caps.† If a Jew ask any privilege, or if he take any certificate or other paper from government, he must pay whatever price may be demanded of him. The taxes of the Jews were twice as great, proportionately, as were the Christians (catholics). In Lithuania the Rabbins were free from taxes.‡ There, one Jew was appointed commissioner between the king and Jews.§ In 1550, in the reign of Sigismund Augustus, several Jews that were accused of stealing a holy wafer were burned alive, in the presence of the Nuncio Lippomanus. This king passed a law by which every head, male and

* 1539, V. L. 1, p. 550.

† 1538, V. L. 1, p. 525.

‡ 1506, V. L. VII., &c.

§ The first who was appointed was Michael, of Brzescia; thus originated the Order of Arch-Rabbins.

female, was obliged to pay a tax of a Polish florin. The Jews that had titles of nobility were exempt. "It is forbidden Jews, under penalty of death, to buy and sell horses."* "It is forbidden them to have Christian servants." In Lithuania, Sigismund Augustus notified the Rabbins that he would be their judge. He forbade them to wear gold chains and precious stones in their girdle and swords. Females only were permitted to dress richly. In the reign of Henry Walezy, the Jews were accused again in Lithuania of the murder of a Christian child. The famous Jesuit, Skarga, put the name of this child in the book of holy martyrs; but Henry's successor, Stephen Batory, published this edict: "The nation will cease to accuse the Jews of the murder of Christian children, as they hold no such murderous doctrine." Under this reign, a certain poet, Klonowicz, ridiculed them and exposed them to scorn. During the reign of Sigismund III. the Roman Hierarchy took the liberty to fight against the synagogues; and this miserable custom prevails to this day. Many libellous books were published against them in his reign. We will mention here a few authors. Przeslaw Mojecki, in 1598, published a book entitled "The

* Vol. L. 2, p. 607.

Atrocity of the Jews," 2d edition in 1618; 3d ed., 1649. Mieczynski published in 1618, "Mirror of the Polish Crown," "Great Offences and Annoyance from the Jews." In these two books the authors gave vent to all that jesuitical fury could invent, and religious fanaticism conceive. These writers poisoned many minds against the poor Israelites. We find another volume, entitled "Unbridled Liberty of the Jews," by Waglicyusz, Cracow, 1648. Still another, entitled "Lament for the Children Murdered by Jews." Many other books were written at that period, whose titles prove the great partiality and folly of the authors. Steszkowski, a physician, enraged that Jewish doctors had greater practice than himself, published a book against employing physicians from that unbelieving nation. He says in this book, that "every one who employs a Jew or Tartar as a physician will be destroyed, soul and body;" it was written by a monk. Dr. Steszkowski himself wrote a book in which he advocated the idea that the cholera and all pestilences were sent as a judgment from heaven on account of the protection the government extended to the Jews. According to a Lithuanian statute, Neophytes were admitted to the title of nobility. But even this law had not much value, because, when their posterity increased in

riches and influence, there was another statute that obliged them to sell their property within two years, under the penalty of confiscation.* But the constitution of 1768, p. 803, forbade the execution of this jesuitical law. During the reign of Michael Wisniowiecki, the Jews were pillaged, and accused, without proof, of being traitors to their country in favor of Turkey. In the reign of John Sobieski, the laws forbade the persecution of the Jews. The act of the consistory of Bishops shows much madness in the clergy against King Sobieski, because he gave them protection; but the Jews called him "Son of the sun, King of Kings, and the savior of the nation." The king was accused before the senate, June 16th, 1862, of being too gracious to the Jews, and treating them too kindly. In the reign of Augustus II., the furious soldiers oppressed the Jews without measure. Long before the Polish church refused to submit to the authority of the Council of Basle; but they complied with that ordinance of the same council which authorized Catholics to preach in Jewish synagogues. One such mission in Lemberg was protected by the soldiers, who compelled the Jews to listen to the preaching of the priests. In Mazowe, the Polish

* Constitution of 1764, Tit. Neofiti, V. L. 7, p. 44. "

citizens passed a decree at the Synod of Plock, threatening with severe punishment those who gave protection to the Jews, or rented them property. In the reign of Stanislas Augustus, the title of Arch-Rabbin was abolished. Many of the Jews became agriculturists, and were freed from the poll-tax of a florin yearly. In 1794, when the nation was in despair, the Jews made enormous sacrifices and fought with great bravery under General Kosciuszko, showing that they loved their country and were willing to suffer for it. We can hardly describe the bravery of the noble Cracovien Israelites in 1846 and '48, and their great sacrifices. Thousands were slain in the streets of Cracow and Kasimir, and thousands, in common with other Polish patriots, are now exiles. Our fatherland is theirs also; for it they are still ready to suffer and die, as are we! They know that the horrible persecution they have suffered came not from the true Polish people, but from our enemies, who wished to divide in order to destroy us—and, unfortunately, succeeded before the nation was aware of their diabolical purposes, which we all, martyrs for suffering Poland, know well. Oh! how bitter has been our experience, and how dearly have we paid for the sins of our fathers and our own. May God have mercy on us, and take from us the malediction that

has been poured on us without mercy ! and may the present struggle for our common liberty unite us all as true brethren, that, if we are ever permitted to return to the dear land from which we are exiled, we may dwell together in love as the children of one Father, convincing each other of our errors with the spirit of love instead of hatred and persecution !

All intelligent persons are aware that the GREAT RÉFORMATION broke the chains of darkness and superstition, and enabled the people better to understand their true dignity. Poland, passionate for truth, was first to welcome this light. Princes, bishops, nobles, and priests, cordially embraced the doctrine of the Reformation. The national heart recoiled with affright when, a short time afterwards, the Jesuits insinuated themselves into Poland ; but liberty guaranteed security to their establishments. They employed there, in order to root and spread themselves, the same dissimulation that served them so admirably elsewhere. Nothing was unlawful for them. Their exclusive organization, their maxims and their conscience, fertile in all sorts of mental restrictions, rendered good all means possible for success. By their insinuating manners they gained the protection of bishops and of many opulent families ; they se-

duced the confidence of King Batory; they possessed the conscience of Sigismund III. They persuaded King Sigismund not to give public offices to protestants. As to the Jews, there were, of course, no public offices for them; they were horribly maltreated and persecuted (the religion that caused such cruelties could be no other than "the mystery of iniquity," 2 Thess. ii. 7); so that all dignities and functions which depended upon royal nomination, were more and more inaccessible to them. The Jesuits opened their schools in Posen in 1572; in Wilna, 1579; in Kalisz, Piotrkow, Cracow, and other places, in 1595. The echo of new, superior, and classical instruction filled their schools, and even the protestants were so imprudent as to send their children. A new generation, all jesuitical, disciplined themselves. Their preachers, by sermonizing the people continually, and by theological disputations in the Latin tongue—which was incomprehensible to the people—with the protestants in the churches and colleges, always endeavoring to have the last word, imposed on the multitude by their zeal, their ardor, and their knowledge. Thus, devotion and fervor gained them followers daily, and aversion to the protestants and Jews became venomous. This Jesuitism, which increased greatly the power of the aristocracy, had little regard for

the lower classes of the people. The nation was divided not only into catholics, protestants, and Jews, but also into magnates, nobles, bourgeoisie, and peasants; the last class being destitute of the rights of citizens, and much oppressed. A modern writer on Poland says of this period: "The intolerance and obscurantism introduced by the Jesuits sapped the foundations of the Republic." With the eighteenth century came the disasters of Poland; intolerance, with its cruelties, wars, pestilence, and misery. The country became the prey of Tartars, Muscovites, Swedes, Brandenburgians; they carried everywhere death and conflagrations; the villages were deserted, the cities, formerly so populous, fell to ruins. More than three millions of inhabitants died in the reign of John Kasi-mir (1648 to 1668). The Tartars alone carried away in this reign 1,246,000 prisoners; nearly 200,000 persons died of pestilence in Cracow and its environs in A. D. 1652. The power of the Jesuits continued to increase, and the state of affairs in the kingdom became worse and worse till 1763, when King Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski ratified a decree of the Diet against evangelical Christians, depriving them of the privilege of worshiping God according to the dictates of their conscience, and excluding them from all participation in affairs of

government. The protestants could not do otherwise than rise against this jesuitical decree, and they demanded liberty of conscience, liberty of person, and freedom for the peasants. Civil dissensions continued, growing worse and worse, until the nation rose and expelled the Jesuits. They were driven from France in 1764, and from other countries of Europe about the same time. Pope Clement XIV. issued his famous bull against them in 1773. He pronounced them "a political club under the cloak of religion, remorseless, avaricious, cruel, and desperately wicked; guilty of crimes beyond the power of the Pope or Church to forgive," &c. On signing this famous "Bull," "Dominus ac Redemptor," Clement said, with a sigh, "I sign my death warrant, but I obey my conscience."

Great disaffection and internal convulsions paved the way for Poland to become the prey of the greedy nations around her. Russia (that, since Ivan III., had wished to occupy so many countries) determined to conquer Poland, and took Smolensk, Starodoub, and Kief, and incorporated them with the empire. From the time of Peter the Great, Russia dictated to Poland her laws, and finished by giving her crown according to her own ideas and caprices. Considerably reduced by the cessions successively made to nearly all the princes of the

house of Romanoff, Poland had still, in A. D. 1772, a surface of nearly 13,155 square miles. Had she been organized in the interior, well-defended by fortresses, and, above all, united, she would still have had power to face all dangers; but, without all such advantages, she was not to be feared by her numerous enemies. These concerted and signed in St. Petersburg, Sept. 5, 1772, a treaty of partition, which, in Jan., 1773, was made known to the Republic, and to all Europe. The Diet was obliged to ratify this decision of the allies, which it did by an act of the 17th of May in the same year—just ninety years ago. Russia took the palatinates of Mscislaw, of Vitebsk, a part of Polotsk, and Polish Livonia. Austria, the palatinate of Russia, with parts of those of Podolia, of Sandomir, Lublin, and Cracow, and the rich and wonderful mines of Wieliczka and Bochnia. Prussia, the palatinate of Marienbourg and Kulm, Pomerania, the bishopric of Viarmie, the districts of Michalow and Nitych, and Dantzic.

There then remained to the Polish Republic only eight millions of its 22,336,416 of inhabitants, and 10,000 square miles.

The second partition of Poland, concerted between Russia and Prussia, took place in 1793, and the Diet of Grodno was obliged to ratify it. This

time Russia gained 410 cities, 10,081 villages, and 4,558 square miles, with 3,011,688 inhabitants. Prussia obtained the cities of Thorn, and the palatinates of Posen, Gnezna, Inowroclaw, Brzesc in Kuiawy, Plock, and a part of Kalisz, of Sieradz and Rawa—in all, 252 cities, 8,274 villages, and 1,061 square miles, with 1,136,489 inhabitants. What remained intact continued to be called the kingdom or republic of Poland. It contained still a little more than 4,000 square miles, with about 3,100,000 inhabitants. But a third and last division put an end to this shadow of existence. This was consummated by the treaty concluded Oct. 24, 1775, between Russia, Prussia, and Austria, in virtue of which Russia took all the rest of Lithuania and Volynie; Austria added to Galicia all that remained of the palatinate of Cracow, of Sandomir, and Lublin, Chelm, Podlakhie, unto Niemirof, and a part of Masovia. The remainder, comprising the capital of Warsaw, the rest of Kalisz, Cracow, Rawa, Podlakhie, Bialystock, and Augustow, fell to Prussia. All remained in this state till 1807, when the peace of Tilsit forced Prussia to cede Bialystock, and—without reviving the immortal name of Poland—it gave an independent existence to a great part of the provinces ceded in 1793 and 1795 to Austria and Prussia. This last power was not only obliged to

restore to the grand duchy of Warsaw all that she had taken from it in 1795, but she was despoiled of a portion of Galicia that she had possessed since 1772; there remained to her only the provinces of the north. She lost Great Poland, Masovia, and Podlakhie. The new countries confided to the King of Saxony, with the title of grand duke, contained a population of 3,774,000 souls, upon 2,778 square miles. But this poor creation of Napoleon I. fell with him. April 1st, 1815, the Emperor Alexander I. wrote to the senate of Warsaw that he had taken the title of King of Poland, and that this new kingdom would be remitted to the empire.

You have doubtless read of the horrible massacre of the barbarous Suwaraff, in 1794, who, at the head of 50,000 men, defeated the Poles at Praga, a large town of 30,000 inhabitants, on the Vistula, opposite Warsaw. Some twenty-eight years ago I conversed with a Russian, who was one of the officers of Suwaraff at that time, who assured me that he never read, or heard, or saw anything so horrible. Even Russian officers were horror-struck at the brutality of Suwaraff, but were obliged to execute his orders. In a word, every man, woman, and child were murdered, except some twenty-five persons who concealed themselves for two days among the tombs of a church, and were thus saved

from the Russian holocaust. Everything of value was plundered by the soldiers, and afterwards the city was burned to ashes. But I will not speak further of this horrible massacre and the appropriations that have been made of my dear country, till nothing is left us of our ancient glory, possessions, and liberties. This is written in history ; it is familiar to the civilized world. Neither will I dwell upon the sufferings we have endured : how we have been forced to leave our beloved Poland and wander in distant lands, far separated from home and friends, whenever it was known that the fire of liberty still burned within us, or be exiled to the inhospitable regions of Siberia and Kamszatka, or to end our days, perhaps, in mines of Arsenic : nor the savage murder by our oppressors of many dear relatives and friends. However little this may be realized by you, more free and happy American people, it is not all unknown. But as all that is past is irreparable, I leave it in the hands of God who judges nations as individuals, righteously, and who will in due time render to all according to their deeds.

My special object is to speak on a very important question of the present time, that seems to be but little understood in this country,—*the emancipation by the Czar of Russia of the serfs of his empire*. As this emancipation includes, also, the peas-

antry of that part of Poland that is under the dominion of Russia, I consider it my duty as a Polishman to make this subject as clear as possible, and tear off the mask of this so-called "great benefactor of the age."

In treating of the subject of the enfranchisement of the serfs of Poland, it is necessary, first, to consider their origin and condition in the state of serfdom. We learn from history that from ancient time the Slavonians were an industrious, agricultural people, and, consequently, peaceful. As late as the seventh and eight centuries the chiefs of Poland were elected from the people. Piast, who was the founder of a long line of chiefs, or princes, was a wheelwright. But, being surrounded by warlike nations, and their territory being the highway of barbarous hordes from Asia, they were obliged to defend themselves, or be swallowed up entirely; and, by exercising themselves in the military art in self-defense, the people came, step by step, to be divided into two classes—men of the sword, nobility so called, and laborers; the former, however, except in time of war, lived peacefully on their estates. The Polish nation increased and became powerful, and was organized as a kingdom; but its army was very small in time of peace, being limited to the number necessary for kingly service and parade.

When war was declared, the first class, or noblemen, were required to go to battle armed at their own expense. At the close of the war, the military citizens were rewarded for their services with large tracts of uninhabited land, also a number of prisoners of war, according to the service of each, as was the custom of the time. We learn from history that, in the sixth century, when the Slavi made prisoners of war they kept them a year, and then left it to their choice whether to live among them or return to their native country. By which we see that they were humane toward their captives in that age of perpetual warfare, when slaves for labor and traffic were mostly taken from prisoners of war. In after times, when the Poles became a historical nation, we find no evidence of their enslaving prisoners of war of other Slavonian nations or Germans; but they used for service the captives taken from heathen nations. Even these were not treated as were prisoners taken captive by the nations around them. In Germany and France, the same class was taxed for the support of the government. In Poland the prisoners of war mixed with the poor class of people, and were settled by their masters in log houses, and provided by them with agricultural implements and cattle, and given the use of a portion of land, according to their capacity and indus-

try — from five to twenty-five acres usually, though sometimes as many as a hundred, for the use of which they paid their landlords a day's work for every five acres of land, for ten acres a day's work and a beast of burden, and in that proportion, and were free from taxation. The rest of their time belonging to themselves, those who were industrious and frugal could soon earn sufficient to buy the land they occupied, and thus become free, with the title of proprietor, as many of the peasantry of Kujavien and other places have done. If not, they remained in their humble, dependent position, without the title of citizen. But, as these people, after many generations, came to lose their origin, and became incorporated with the Polish nation, speaking the same language and having the same religion as their lords, the *Polish citizens*, the protestants especially,* resolved, at any sacrifice, to make them entirely free !

The law of the constitution of the 3d of May, 1791, under Stanislaus Augustus, concerning the peasants, reads as follows :

ARTICLE IV.

Whereas, the peasants constitute the principal strength of the nation, and from their hands flow into the country abundant riches, therefore, by justice and Christian obligation and our own national

* See page 28.

interest, we receive them under the protection of the laws of the national government; therefore, resolved: That, from this day, whatever liberty and concession shall be given by the proprietors to the peasants, and whatever contracts shall be made between them concerning property, we do lawfully and mutually agree that liberty and concessions shall be given; and this contract shall be made with the peasants, singly or collectively, and constituting mutual and reciprocal responsibility according to the well understood condition of said contract, including the description of said contract, and shall be under the protection of the laws of the national government. Said agreement, and the duties resulting therefrom, freely accepted by the proprietors and their successors, shall so bind them that they cannot be arbitrarily changed. The peasants, on their part, no matter how their property may increase, cannot withdraw from this contract. But, as it is recorded for a certain time, or forever, his contract is obligatory. The proprietors thus have the assurance of their revenue, and, wishing more efficaciously the multiplication of the people of the kingdom, we proclaim *entire liberty to all people of the country*, as well to the newly arrived as to returned emigrants, however long they have been absent; in such manner that, from whatever country a man may come, or how long he may have been an emigrant, whenever his feet shall touch the soil of the Polish Republic he shall be entirely free—free to use his capacity in any business occupation he may choose, how or where he will; he is free to make any agreement for land, for work, &c., &c. He has liberty to settle in the country, in the village or city, as he pleases; he is free to live in Poland, or return to any kingdom or other place he may choose, first satisfying the obligations under which he has placed himself, &c.

General Kosciusko, on his return from the United States, carried with him to Poland the fire of liberty! He clothed himself in the costume of a Cracovian peasant, and fought with the Russians for the liberty of the people. But, unfortunately, he fell into the hands of his enemies, and the question of the enfranchisement of the peasantry was postponed—not by the will of the true Polish people, but by their enemies. The insurrection of 1830–31 declared the freedom of the serfs; but, as we failed to succeed in becoming independent, the Russian government strictly forbade the execution of our noble purpose, and the enfranchisement of our dear people was again postponed. At the close of the war, the exiled Polish patriots concentrated in Paris, appointed a committee of five to devise the best means to be used for the good of our country and the enfranchisement of our entire people. The eminent men who formed this committee were: John Nepomucen Janowski (Editor of the *National Gazette* at Warsaw), L'Abbè Pulaski, Pluzanski, Adam Gurovski, and Thadeus Krempowiecki.

This Committee prepared a new and purely democratic constitution for the Polish nation, which was extensively circulated, and received with the greatest enthusiasm! The time that was appointed by this Democratic Society for the completion of the

republic for which Kosciusko fought, was the year 1846. Galicia, the republic of Cracow, and Posen, were first to set the example. The lords recognized the peasants as free citizens; and all the world knew the fact that *liberty was proclaimed to all the Polish serfs*, “without money or price,”—not by the Russian Czar, but by the Polish citizens. But a cloud of blackness settled once more over our beloved city of Cracow. The 23d of February, A. D. 1846, 60,000 Russians, 60,000 Austrians, and near as many Prussians, concentrated themselves upon that devoted city, and, after eleven days of heavy battles, our heroes were again dispersed; the Republican government of Cracow was destroyed, and its territory subjugated by Austria. Polish Galicia was still more unfortunate. Metternich, at the command of the Emperor Ferdinand, had given orders to set at liberty an infamous murderer named Szela, with many other prisoners, robbers and malefactors. They had authority to go from village to village in all the kingdom of Galicia, accompanied by the officers of government, disguised as peasants, and kill all the Democratic Polish nobles in Galicia. These commands were faithfully executed. The murderers, under the command of Szela, slew in a few nights more than 5,000 of the most noble Polish citizens. They were sawn asunder, cut to pieces

with axes, pierced with bayonets, robbed, and otherwise maltreated in the presence of their families and friends; their estates were confiscated and freely distributed among the peasants. Such was the generous reward our nation received for the service rendered to Roman Catholic Austria by John Sobieski and his army of 25,000 Poles, who, when Vienna was surrounded by an army of 200,000 Turks, in 1683, fell upon them and routed them entirely, with great slaughter. But for their timely aid, there would not be to-day a shadow of the throne of the house of Hapsburgh. This inhuman act of violence by Austria animated the heart of the Czar Nicholas, and he seized upon the idea of doing the same in Russian Poland. But the Almighty disposer of events did not suffer him to carry out his murderous plans. The sudden revolution of 1848, which shook all the thrones of Europe, and which did not end till the conclusion of the war at Sebastopol, made it necessary for him to defer the work, and his death shortly after prevented him from accomplishing his wicked intentions. But what Nicholas failed to accomplish, his son Alexander, on taking his place, made haste to do. *Now to the point.* The war of Sebastopol, in which Russia lost the best of her army—her disappointment in the politics of Austria—the hypocritical treatment of the English and

French cabinets—the just claim of Sweden to Finland—near a century's war with Circassia without result—the revolutionary spirit in Siberia from the time of the horrible murder of the Polish patriot Sierocinski*—the great dissatisfaction of the Cossacks, who are striving for their own independence—Poland and Lithuania requiring the constant watchfulness of the army—and an enormous debt to the Rothschilds, made the proud Alexander tremble for his power, as if his throne had been in a volcano's crater; and, as the only refuge for the safety of his dynasty, he precipitated himself into the execution of the purposes of his father. But it was necessary, of course, that his true motives should be concealed; therefore, as *lupus in pelle ovina*, he thought it best to liberate the Russian serfs also, cherishing the hope of being able to satisfy his nobles by giving them the confiscated property of Poles who would refuse to submit to his decree. Then, the Polish noblemen stripped of their property, carried to Siberia and Kamszatka, or murdered, would cease forever to be troublesome. The peasants, being made proprietors of their land by the Czar, would look upon him as their benefactor and father, and

* See Thrilling and Instructive Developments, by the Author. Chap. vi. pp. 40 to 50. Boston, 1862.

submit with docility to his rule, and still remain, according to Russian policy, uneducated and uncivilized. Russia, thus united and consolidated, would be powerful indeed, able to resist all foreign enemies combined, and the name of the Czar Alexander II. become great as a "benefactor," by distributing property not his own! And he has succeeded well, as all know, in making himself believed in these enlightened United States to be a "philanthropist of the highest order."

Otherwise, Poland, by freeing her peasants lawfully, as we have shown she had long endeavored to do, giving them education, and all privileges indispensable to free and full citizenship, would attach them permanently to herself by gratitude, and become too powerful and enlightened to be kept longer in subjugation. Worst of all, the society of Bakunin, the members of which are widely spread through the Russian Empire, one in spirit and purpose with our Polish Democratic body, joined with us, could easily make an end of the power of the house of Romanoff. Both the Czar and Poland understand this question well. The unusual conscription of the Polish nobles in January last was the commencement of the execution of the purpose of the Czar in respect to Poland. The circulars of the secret address of the Director of the police, Mucha-

noff, to his agents, to “stir up the peasants against the Polish proprietors,” prove that the conspiracy of which we have spoken to you is not a dream of the imagination. One of these circulars, having been divulged, caused so much irritation, that Muchanoff was compelled to leave Warsaw. The Polish nation could not go, unresisting, into this last trap, so ingeniously, so diabolically set for her complete destruction; could not yield up to oppressing Russia her last vestige of hope without a struggle—if only a death struggle; she could not but resist; and how she has done, is still doing, this, trusting only in the help of Heaven, everybody knows. Torrents of blood are already flowing, and God only can foresee what will be the end of the struggle. May He be merciful to my poor oppressed country, that her people may have the opportunity to prepare themselves for the true service of God, and His everlasting kingdom. And may you, also, dear readers, give to the Czar his due, and Poland her honor and your sympathy.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

OF THE

SOVEREIGNS OF POLAND,

AND THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS IN THE REIGN OF EACH.

EPOCH I.

From Lech to Mieczyslas, 550 to 965.

FABULOUS CHRONICLE OF PAGAN POLAND.

A. D.		YEARS.
550—	LECH I., the first Polish Prince. Wizymir, founder of the city of Wismar. Twelve Governors.	
700—	KRAKUS, founder of Cracow, reigned.....	28
	LECH II., reigned.....	2
730—	PRINCESS WANDA, daughter of Krakus, reigned.	10
	Twelve Governors again, reigned	10
750—	PRZEMYSLAS GOLDSMITH, under the name of Leszek I., reigned.....	34
784—	LESZEK II., reigned.....	16
800—	LESZEK III., “	15
815—	POPIEL I., son of Leszek III., reigned.....	15
830—	POPIEL II., reigned.....	18

PERIOD FIRST.—Conquering Poland—Independent Kings.

PIAST DYNASTY.

860—	ZIEMOWIT, son of Piast and Rzepicha, reigned...	31
892—	LESZEK IV., son of Ziemowit, reigned	29
921—	ZIEMOMYSL, son of Leszek IV., reigned	41
962—	MIECZYSLAS I., son of Ziemomysl and Gorka (born A. D. 931), first Catholic Prince. His wife, Dombrowka, was daughter of Boleslas, Prince of Bohemia; reigned.....	30

EPOCH II.

From the Baptism of Mieczyslas I., 965, to 1139.

A. D.		YEARS.
992—	BOLESLAS THE GREAT, son of Mieczyslas and Dombrowka, first crowned monarch; conquered Silesia and the Carpathian Mountains, Pomerania, Moravia, Lusatia, Servia, &c., reigned	33
1025—	MIECZYSLAS II., son of Boleslas the Great, “	9
	After his death, his wife, Ryxa, fled with her son, Kazimir, to Germany, on which account there was an interregnum of five years. During this time there was great confusion in Poland. The Polish pagans revenged the blood spilt under Mieczyslas I.; rose, murdered the priests, and reduced the churches to ashes, and took the rest of the royal treasure which Ryxa was unable to take with her. Maslaw, a Chief, saved the nation.	
1040—	KAZIMIR I., called the Monk, son of Mieczyslas II. and Ryxa, restored Poland, and reigned.....	18
	Reconquered Silesia.	
1058—	BOLESLAS THE BRAVE, son of Kazimir I. and Mary Dobrogniewa, daughter of Jaroslaw, a Russian Prince, reigned.....	22
1070	Retook Przemyśl, Red Russia and Kijovia City.	
1073	Volynia was united with Poland.	
1081—	WLADISLAS HERMAN, brother of Boleslas the Brave, reigned	21
1081	Poland lost Red Russia.	
1102—	BOLESLAS III., son of Wladislas Herman and Judith, daughter of Venceslas, a Bohemian Prince, reigned.....	37
1108	The Province of Spisk was given to Stephen, son of Koloman, a Hungarian King.	
1119	Pomerania was reconquered.	
1121	Lusitania and the Island of Rugia, and all provinces lying between them, were conquered.	

EPOCH III.

From 1139 to 1333.

POLAND DIVIDED, BY BOLESLAS.

A. D.		YEARS.
1139—	WLADISLAS II., son of Boleslas III. and Zbislawa, reigned.....	9
	He married Agnes, an Austrian Princess. She did not like the Poles, ridiculed their costume and habits, and so irritated the nation that both herself and husband were dethroned and cast out of the kingdom.	
1148—	BOLESLAS IV., brother of Wladislas II., reigned	25
	He was not able to resist German covetousness, and humiliated himself and the nation by signing	
1157	an ignominious peace in Krysgow.	
1173—	MIECZYSLAS III., son of Boleslas III. and Saloma, Princess of Bergen, reigned.....	4
	He loved to display the dignity of a monarch, and for this reason the magnates and bishops disliked and dethroned him.	
1177—	KAZIMIR II., son of Boleslas III. and Saloma, reigned.....	17
	His wife was Helena, a Russian Princess.	
1194—	LESZEK BIALY, Mieczyslas III. and Wladislas Iaskonogi, reigned alternately.....	13
1207—	LESZEK BIALY, who was son of Kazimir II. and Helena, a Russian Princess, reigned a second time,	20
1207	He gave Masovia to his brother Conrad.	
1219	The Duchy of Polock was taken by Lithuania.	
1221	Skirmund, the Prince of Lithuania, conquered Mozyr, Starodub, Czernichow, and Siewierz.	
1222	The Province of Dobrzyn was given by Prince Conrad to the Knights Templars of Inflan.	
1225	Prince Conrad introduced the Crusaders into Poland, and gave them the land of Chelm.	
1226	Pomerania and Dantzic were taken by Swiatapelck.	

A. D.		YEARS.
1227—	BOLESŁAS V., son of Leszek Bialy and Saloma. reigned.....	52
	His wife was Cunegunda, daughter of Beli, King of Hungary. She discovered the salt mines of of Wieliczka and Bochnia.	
1241	Podlakhie was taken by Lithuania.	
1244	The City of Lublin was taken by Daniel Romanowicz, Prince of Halick.	
1264	Podlakhie was again united to Poland. Boleslas V. governed very miserably. In his reign the Cru- saders, Tartars, Lithuanians, and Germans, plun- dered Poland freely!	
1270	The provinces of Odra, Warta, Lubush, Krosno, and the rest of the Lusatian provinces, were mortgaged to Bohemia. Boleslas died childless.	
1279—	LESZEK CZARNY, Prince of Sieradz, son of Kazi- mir, Prince of Kujavia, and cousin of Conrad, Prince of Masovia, reigned.....	10
	His wife, Gryfina, a Russian Princess, had no children. She wished to give the throne to Ven- ceslas, King of Bohemia, but Poland opposed her.	
1290—	HENRY PROBUS, son of the Prince of Breslau, who died in the first year of his reign, reigned...	1
1295—	PRZEMYSLAS, son of Przemyślas, Prince of Posen, and grandson of Wladislas, Prince of Grand Po- land (there were two other pretenders to the crown, Wladislas, Lokietek, and Venceslas, King of Bohemia), reigned.....	1
	His wife, Ludgarda, a Slavonian, was choked to death in Posen. His second wife was Ryxa, a Swedish Princess, whose daughter, of the same name, was married to Venceslas, King of Bo- hemia.	
1296—	WŁADISŁAS LOKIETEK, brother of Leszek Czar- ny, who was dethroned, reigned	4
1298	A part of Pomerania, was taken by the Crusaders.	
1300—	VENCESLAS, King of Bohemia, who reigned in Po- land.....	5

A. D.

YEARS.

- 1302 Lublin was reconquered by Venceslas.
- 1303 The Crusaders appropriated the province of Michalow.
- 1306— WLADISLAS LOKIETEK was crowned the second time, and reigned 27
- His first wife, Hedwig, daughter of Boleslas, Prince of Kalisz, was the mother of Kazimir the Great and Elizabeth, wife of Robert, King of Hungary.
- 1310 The Crusaders took, treacherously, Dantzic and Pomerania.
- 1319 Brzesc in Lithuania, Drochiczyn and Luck were taken by Gedymyn, Grand Duke of Lithuania.
- 1320 He took also Volynia.
- 1331 Olgierd, Grand Duke of Lithuania, extended the dominion of his Duchy to the Black Sea, and the Tartars of Crimea submitted to his rule.
- 1332 Pomerania and Kujavia were taken by the Crusaders.

EPOCH IV.

From Kazimir the Great to Sigismund III., 1333 to 1586.

POLAND FLOURISHING.

- 1333— KAZIMIR THE GREAT, son of Wladislas Lokietek..... 37
- 1340 Kazimir United Red Russia to Poland after the death of the Russian Prince Boleslas.
- 1343 By the stipulation of the peace of Kalish, Kazimir abandoned his claim to Silesia, and regained Kujavia and Dobrzyn. Pomerania, Dantzic and Chelm were left to the Crusaders.
- 1345½ Wschowa (Froustad) was reunited to Poland, and the City of Swidnica was lost.
- 1346 The Republics of Pskow and Nowogrod became tributary to Lithuania, &c.
- 1364 University of Cracow was founded.

A. D.	YEARS.
1365	Inowroclaw, Bydgoszcz and Gniewkow, were united to Poland. Kazimir had no sons, and the male line of Piast became extinct at his death, which occurred in 1370.
1370—	LOUIS, son of Robert, king of Hungary, and Elizabeth, daughter of Wladislas Lokietek, and sister of Kazimir the Great (according to the wish of Kazimir), became King of Poland, and reigned.... 12 His second wife, Elizabeth of Bosnia, was the mother of Hedwig, who was born 1372, and married to Wladislas Jagellon, a Lithuanian prince in 1386, by which marriage Poland and Lithuania were united in one kingdom.
THE JAGELLON DYNASTY.	
1386—	WLADISLAS JAGELLON, born in 1348, son of Olgerdo, who was nephew of Godymir, Grand Duke of Lithuania, and Mary, princess of Tiversk, reigned..... 48
1386	Smolensk, Wallachia and Moldavia, became tributary to Poland.
1410	There was a great victory over the Crusaders near Grunvald.
1412	The Starosty of Spisk was mortgaged to Poland by Sigismund, King of Hungary, for 2,400,000 gross of Praga.
1434—	WLADISLAS III., Warnenius, son of Wladislas Jagellon and Sophie his fourth wife, who was a Russian princess, reigned..... 10
1440	He was crowned in Buda, with the crown of St. Stephen, as King of Hungary also.
1442	The Turks, after a severe battle with the Poles, sued for a peace of ten years' duration, which was granted. Each nation swore to keep the peace, the Poles by the Gospel, the Turks by the Koran. This was unsatisfactory to the Pope, Eugenius IV.,*

* Eugenius IV., alias Gabriel Condelmère, formerly Cardinal of St. Clement, was a bastard of Pope Gregory the XII. and a Benedictine nun.—*Cormenin, History of the Popes.*

A. D.

YEARS.

and he absolved Wladislas from his oath, and forced him at the expiration of two years to break his oath with the "Infidels," and reopen the war. The two armies met at Varna, near the Black Sea. The Turkish army formed a crescent, in the centre of which was erected a pole, to which was attached the treaty of peace between Turkey and Poland. Wladislas was unwilling to disobey the Pope's Legate, Cardinal Julian Cesarini, who was present there; the Turks then commenced the battle with great fury. Wladislas, the King, was killed, and his head cut off and displayed in view of the Turkish army!

- 1444**—— KAZIMIR JAGELLON, brother of Wladislas, reig'd 48
 1453 He bought the principality of Oswiecim.
 1462 The principalities of Rava and Belsk were also united to Poland.
 1466 By the treaty of Torun, the Crusaders abandoned Pomerania, Dantzic, Chelm, Warmia and Malberg.
 1473 Nicholas Copernicus was born in Torun.
 1478 Russia conquered Great Novgorod.
 1484 Bialygrad (Akerman) and Kilia, Polish ports on the Black Sea, were taken by the Turks.
- 1492**—— JOHN ALBERT, son of Kazimir Jagellon, and Elizabeth, daughter of the Emperor Albert. He died unmarried. Reigned..... 9
 1494 Starodoub, Bransk and many other provinces were taken by the Russians.
 1494 John Albert bought, for 80,000 ducats, the Duchy of Zator.
 1495 The Duchy of Plock was joined to the crown. John Albert was the first monarch who organized a standing army of 1,600 horse.
 1497 There was a great massacre of the nobles in the forest of Bukowina, by the peasants.
- 1501**—— ALEXANDER, brother of John Albert, reigned... 5
 and died without posterity. His wife was daughter of Prince Ivan Wasilewicz.

A. D.	YEARS.
1501	Prince Glinski conquered the Tartars near Klecko.
1506	John Lacki collected the statutes of the kingdom and printed them.
1506—	SIGISMUND I. , fifth son of Kazimir Jagellon, reig'd 42 His first wife was Barbara Zapolska, the mother of Hedwig, who was married to the Elector of Brandenburg. His second wife was Bona Sforcia, princess of Milan. She was the mother of Sigismund Augustus, who was born 1520.
1509	The Republic of Pskow was taken by Russia.
1514	By the treachery of Glinski, Smolensk fell into the hands of Russia.
1525	The principality of Prussia was taken from the Crusaders and given to Albert, nephew of Sigismund I. From that time the provinces of Pomerania and Dantzic took the name of Royal Prussia, and Prussia proper the name of Duchy of Prussia.
1526.	Sigismund gave the provinces of Lavenburg and Bytow to his nephews the princes of Pomerania, Isodore and Barnimow.
1531	There was a great victory of the Poles over Voloshian, near Oberlin.
1537	A rebellion broke out in the small town of Gliniany, near Lemberg.
1548—	SIGISMUND AUGUSTUS , son of Sigismund I. and Bona Sforcia. He had three wives, but no children. Reigned 24
1556	Bona Sforcia took the principal part of the royal treasure and fled to Italy. This treasure was never returned.
1561	The Order of Gladiators' ceased to exist. Livonia was retaken. Gothar Ketller, Grand Master of the Crusaders, received, by Feudal Law, Kurland and Semigallia.
1563	The Russians took Polotsk.
1569	The union between Poland and Lithuania was established. Podlakhie, Volhynia, Podolia, and Ukraine were reunited to Poland.

A. D.

YEARS.

ELECTIVE KINGS.

- 1574—— HENRY WALESIIUS, son of Charles IX., King of France, reigned five months.
- 1575—— STEPHEN BATORY, Voievod of Transylvania, reigned 11
- 1578 Russia took all Livonia, except Riga and Rewla.
- 1582 By the treaty of Zapole, Polotsk and Livonia were joined again to Poland.

EPOCH V.

From Sigismund III. to the last division of Poland, 1586 to 1795.

DECADENCE OF POLAND.

- 1586—— SIGISMUND III., son of John Vaza, a Swedish prince royal, and Catharine, daughter of Sigismund I. and Bona Sforzia, reigned 45
- 1588 John Zamoyski took Maximilian, Arch-duke of Austria, prisoner, and routed the Austrians, with great slaughter, near Pitchen.
- 1605 Gen. Chodkiewicz conquered Charles Suderman near Kirchholm.
- 1606 Revolt of Lord Zebrzydowski.
- 1610 Great victory over the Russians by Zolkiewski. The city of Moscow taken. Wladislas, son of Sigismund III., chosen Czar of Russia.
- 1611 Smolensk was taken by the Poles, with great slaughter.
- 1612 Sigismund, incited by the Jesuits, in his great anxiety to convert Russia to catholicism, imprisoned the Russian ministers, and acted in other respects contrary to the interests of Poland, and of his son, the Russian Czar. The Russians, enraged, drove Wladislas from the throne, and all troublesome Poles from Moscow, and called to the throne the house of Romanoff. A useful lesson for Polanders!
- 1619 The principalities of Siewierz, Czernichow, Smolensk,

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YEARS:

and Starodoub, by the treaty of Diwilin, were reunited to Poland. Wallachia and Moldavia were given by treaty to Turkey.

1620 Stanislas Zolkiewski lost a great battle near Cekora, and himself perished.

1621 Charles Chodkiewicz died in the famous battle with the Turks near Chocim. Livonia, Riga, and a part of Prussian Poland were taken by the Swedes, and, by the treaty of 1629, were left to Sweden.

1632—— WLADISLAS IV., son of Sigismund III. and Anne, an Austrian Princess, reigned..... 16

1634 By the treaty of peace of Warn, Michael Federowicz renounced his claim to Smolensk, Siewierz, Czernichow, Livonia, and Estonia. By the treaty of peace in Stumsdorf, in 1635, a part of Prussian Poland was again united to the crown.

1637 The provinces of Lavenbourg and Bytow were united to Poland.

1638 The Cossacks rebelled, but were punished severely, and order was restored.

1648—— JOHN KAZIMIR, cardinal, brother of Wladislas IV., reigned 20

He married Mary Lois, widow of Wladislas, princess of Mantua.

1654 Czar Alexis Michalowicz took Smolensk. The Cossacks, under the rebel Cmielnicki, submitted themselves to Russia.

1656 Czarnecki conquered Sweden. By the treaty of Welaw, which was confirmed at Bydgoszcz, the duchy of Prussia was freed from Poland, with the condition that; when the house of Brandenburg should become extinct, the duchy should return to Poland. But, by the treaty of Warsaw, 1775, Poland was obliged to renounce the privilege that the treaty of Welaw accorded her. The provinces of

1657 Lavenburg and Bytow were given by feudal law to Frederic William, with the obligation to pay tribute to the Polish crown.

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- 1658 A part of the Cossacks were united to Poland by the treaty concluded in Hadziacz.
- 1660 By the peace of Olive, the independence of Prussia was acknowledged, Livonia was taken by Russia, except a small part near Dzwina, called Polish Livonia, which continued a part of Poland till 1672. Curland and Semigalia were taken in 1795 by Russia.
- 1667 By the treaty of Andruszow, Ukraine, Smolensk, and Czernichow were given to Russia. The Cossacks united with the Turks. John Kazimir, cardinal, renounced his crown, and finished his life in France, as priest and abbot of St. Martin. This painful tragedy is another lesson for Polanders.
- 1668—MICHAEL WISNIOWIECKI, son of Prince Jeremiah Wisniowiecki, a successful general, reigned..... 5
To reward his great services to the kingdom, his son was proclaimed king. His wife was Eleonora, daughter of Ferdinand III., Emperor of Austria. After his death she married Charles V., prince of Lorraine.
- 1672 A part of Ukraine and Kamieniec, in Podolia, were taken by the Turks.
- 1673—JOHN SOBIESKI, general, elected at the age of forty-nine years, reigned..... 23
His wife was Marie Casimira, daughter of the Marquis de Bethune.
- 1683 He gained a great victory over the Turks. At the head of 25,000 Poles and 30,000 allies, he defeated 280,000 Turks, who had surrounded Vienna, and saved Austria.
- 1696—AUGUSTUS II., Elector of Saxony, reigned 36
- 1699 By the treaty of Karlowice, the principality of Podolia and Kamieniec were joined again to Poland.
- 1702 A great battle with the Swedes, near Klisow.
- 1705—CHARLES XII., King of Sweden, proclaimed Stanislas Leszczynski, Voievod of Posen, King of Poland, reigned..... 4

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YEARS.

His wife was Opalinska, a Polish lady. His daughter Mary married Louis XV. of France, since canonized St. Louis.

1709—AUGUSTUS II., after the great battle with the Swedes, returned to Poland.

1733—AUGUSTUS III., son of Augustus II. and Christina Eberhard, princess of Beiruth, reigned 30

His wife was Mary Josephine, daughter of Joseph, Emperor of Austria. His son Charles was prince of Kurland.

1764—STANISLAS AUGUSTUS PONIATOWSKI, son of the Grand Castellan of Cracow and Princess Czartoryska, reigned 32

1772 The first division of Poland took place.

1793 The second division.

1794 The insurrection of Kosciuszko.

1795 The third division. Great battle in Praga. King Stanislas was taken prisoner to St. Petersburg, where he died and was buried.

1806 After the battles of Jena and Auersadt Napoleon I. entered Posen, and created the Duchy of Warsaw.

1809 Prince Joseph Poniatowski took from Austria the provinces of Cracow, Sandomir, Lublin, and the west part of Galicia, &c. 2,000,000 of people were joined then to the Duchy of Warsaw.

1812 Napoleon was defeated in Russia.

1814 Great battle near Liepsic. Prince Joseph Poniatowski was wounded in battle, and, in attempting to cross the river Elster on horseback, was drowned.

1815 The congress of Vienna created, from the Duchy of Warsaw, Little Poland, the Republic of Cracow, and Grand Duchy of Posen.

1830 Nov. 29, great insurrection in Warsaw. The Polish army drawn from the camp of Bolimow was composed of 47,669 infantry, 9,284 cavalry, and 2,875 artillery. In the provinces of Cracow and Sandomir there was a corps of

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several thousand men, composed, in part, of regular troops. Besides these, we had in our hands the strong places of Praga, of Modlin, and of Zamosc, with their garrisons, the number of soldiers amounting to 12,000. Many corps of partisans fought, also, in different parts of the country. The field artillery had more than 150 pieces of cannon, and the ramparts of the capital were covered with 120 pieces of ordinance. The greatest enthusiasm reigned at Warsaw. All waited for the attack of the enemy as the time of triumph for Poland. The war was conducted with much brilliancy for nine months. But the spirit of diplomacy on one hand,* and treachery on the other, influenced by the gold of Nicholas, and personal ambition, ended the war unfortunately to us.

- 1831 Sept. 6th. Toward five o'clock P. M. Prondzynski, who, as Krukowiecki had not appeared on the field of battle, but had only promenaded from the camp of the enemy to the palace of government, who had calumniated the national army by saying that it had not intended to fight, returned to the Diet, accompanied by the Russian General Berg, to frighten it with the 60,000 infantry of the enemy and two lines of artillery ready for the assault, while the prisoners of war and some deserters asserted that they were already lacking in ammunition and provisions. The Diet replied: "The representatives of the nation will await the events of the assault." While this was passing Krukowiecki, plotting the basest treason, resigned, and took again his commission. Being authorized at last to conclude an arrangement tending to pacification ("wejść w układy donzonce do ukonczenia walki"), he wrote in French the following letter of submission to the Czar, which he delivered to Paskiewicz: "Sir: Being intrusted at this time with power to speak to your Imperial and Royal Majesty in the name of the Polish nation, I address myself through his Excellency Count Paskiewicz d'Erivan, marshal, to

* Adam Czartoryski, in his note to the French cabinet, says: "We could have given a mortal blow to our enemies had we not counted upon diplomacy."

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your paternal heart. In submitting, without condition, to your Majesty and our king, the Polish nation knows that she only can forget the past, and heal the deep wounds which have lacerated my country. Signed, Count JOHN KRUKOWIECKI, General of Infantry, President of Government." In awaiting the response, the contracting parties concealed the conditions under which Warsaw was to be evacuated, and after which the Polish army was to proceed to the palatinate of Plock. The next day, which was the 8th of Sept., the enemy were to occupy the capital. The Diet knew nothing of this, and apparently believed that a decisive compromise could not be concluded without its preliminary ratification, as one of its previous laws required; and, when Count Vladislav Ostrowski, marshal, learned before ten o'clock the same evening that Krukowiecki had given the troops orders to commence the retreat upon Prague, in virtue of a secret arrangement, the marshal went to him immediately, and after giving him to understand that he had abused his power, he asked him to make known the conditions of the concluded convention. Krukowiecki replied: "Nothing has been done; hear this cannonade; see this conflagration; it is thus that Paskiewicz accepts the propositions with which I charged General Prondzynski!" "What propositions?" repeated the marshal of the Diet. "This morning," continued Krukowiecki, "You refused advantageous arrangements; at present I offer complete submission, and the Russians will no more accept it." After this declaration Ostrowski summoned him to give his resignation by writing, and gave him to understand that in ten hours his power would be at an end. He returned to the Diet, and, after exposing the state of things, proceeded to the nomination of the Nuncio of Warta, Bonaventura Niemoiowski, as president of government. Towards midnight the two negotiators, Prondzynski and Berg, returned to the Russian camp to sign decisively the compromise. The position of the new government was difficult. The retreat upon Prague had commenced six hours before, and the defense of the city in

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many places abandoned by order of Krukowiecki. For this reason, the temporary commander in chief was not able to make an efficient resistance to the assault, which might be very soon renewed, especially as the guard of surety had not been called to the defense of the barricades, and could not be immediately assembled. On the other hand, the conditions proposed were incompatible with the national honor. In this disagreeable position, Berg made known to the new president that he would have to do only with Krukowiecki, who was absent. He was sent for, but could not be found. The temporary commander in chief, the aged General Kazimir Malachowski, felt the necessity of signing a letter addressed to Paskiewicz, in which, to save the city, he promised him to leave it without delay, and Praga also, and to deliver it and the bridge to the enemy; he reserved the right to take away all the baggage and military materials, and every body was to be permitted to follow freely the Polish army during forty-eight hours. These conditions were accepted, but not fulfilled. No one dreamed that the defense of Warsaw would have so sad a result. 100,000 Polish soldiers crossed the frontier in different places, many of whom have died in exile! Many, however, still live in hope of yet seeing beloved Poland free and independent. See "*Les Derniers Momens de la Révolution de Pologne en 1831.*" Par Jean N. Janowski, ci devant fonctionnaire au ministère des finances et rédacteur de la Gazette de Pologne, &c. Chez J. P. Auger, Paris, 1833.

- 1837** March.—Horrible judicial murder in Siberia of the leaders of a contemplated insurrection. Viz.: Sierocinski, Druzhalski, Jablonski, Szokalski, Zagorski and Mieldyn. (See *Thrilling and Instructive Developments*, by the Author, chap. vi. p. 40. Boston, 1862. Published by G. C. Rand and Avery, Cornhill, Boston, Mass.)
- 1846** February 23d. Insurrection in Cracow and Galicia, under Dictator Tysowski, Charles Rogawski (Secretary of State), Louis Mazaraki (Commander of the army in Cracow), Leon Okszye Czechowski (Commander of the army in

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Tarnow), &c. 20,000 Polish insurgents in Cracow, with five cannon, three being of wood, disarmed and drove the Austrians from the Republic. But, after eleven days of heavy battles with 60,000 Russians and 60,000 Austrians, the small Polish army was defeated.

We can hardly describe the bravery of the Cracovian Israelites in 1846 and '48, and their great sacrifices. Many were slain in the streets of Cracow and Kazimierz, and thousands, in common with other Polish patriots, are now in exile. Our fatherland is theirs also; for it they are still ready to suffer and die, as are we.

The Grand Duchy of Posen was not more fortunate. The Commander-in-Chief, Mr. Louis Miroslawski, was treacherously delivered to the Prussian Government, with all the plans of the intended siege. Many were thereby compromised. Hipolite Trompczynski assumed a command, in order to deliver Miroslawski from prison and open the insurrection in Posen. In crossing a bridge in a carriage, with three other officers, they were fired upon by Prussian soldiers, the companions of Trompczynski were killed, and he was wounded in the throat and taken to prison.

- 1848** Insurrection in Grand Duchy of Posen, under Louis Miroslawski, and in Cracow. After three heavy battles near Sroda, Wrzesnia, and Miroslaw, the Polish army was dispersed.
- 1850** The City of Cracow was burned to ashes by the Austrians.

STATISTICS OF POLAND,

According to the limits established in A. D. 1772, before the first
DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM.

Extent and Population of Poland, in A. D. 1772, divided in three parts, viz. :

A.

PROVINCES UNDER DOMINION OF	Square miles 15 to one degree.	Population.	To a square Mile.
Russia	11,292	15,417,389	1,365
Austria	1,528	4,226,969	2,766
Prussia	1,664	2,584,124	1,552
Republic of Cracow.....	21	107,934	5,139
Total.....	14,505	22,336,416	1,540

B.

Division of Inhabitants according to their Religion.

	Catholic	Unito- Greek.	Greek Profes't.	Roscu- lanes.	Luth. & Calvin.	Jews.	Mus- sul- mans.	Totals.
Russia	5,600,000	1,740,000	3,230,000	180,000	900,000	1,700,000	50,000	13,400,000
Austria	1,500,000	2,000,000	200,000	.....	.....	300,000	.....	4,000,000
Prussia.....	1,350,000	.....	.....	.....	1,250,000	100,000	.....	2,700,000
Republic of Cracow.	110,000	1,000	.....	.....	1,000	10,000	.....	122,000
Total.....	8,560,000	3,741,000	3,430,000	180,000	2,151,000	2,110,000	50,000	20,222,000

C.

Division of Inhabitants according to their Language.

	Polish.	Lithu- anians.	Ruthen- ians.	Ger- mans.	He- brews.	Walla- chians.	Mus- covites.	Totals.
Russia	3,750,000	1,700,000	5,620,000	400,000	1,700,000	50,000	180,000	13,400,000
Austria.....	1,700,000	.....	1,900,000	50,000	300,000	50,000	.....	4,000,000
Prussia	1,210,000	200,000	.....	100,000	.....	.....	.....	2,700,000
Republic of Cracow.	111,000	1,000	10,000	122,000
Total.....	6,771,000	1,900,000	7,520,000	551,000	2,010,000	100,000	180,000	20,222,000

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